

By: Taylor of Galveston

S.B. No. 2144

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of a commission to recommend improvements  
3 to the public school finance system.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by adding  
6 Subchapter L to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER L. TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

8 Sec. 42.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "commission"  
9 means the Texas Commission on Public School Finance.

10 Sec. 42.602. TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE.

11 (a) The Texas Commission on Public School Finance is established to  
12 develop and make recommendations for improvements to the current  
13 public school finance system or for new methods of financing public  
14 schools.

15 (b) The commission is composed of 15 members, consisting of  
16 the following:

17 (1) four members appointed by the governor;

18 (2) three members appointed by the lieutenant  
19 governor;

20 (3) three members appointed by the speaker of the  
21 house of representatives;

22 (4) the chair of the senate committee on education, or  
23 a representative designated by the chair;

24 (5) the chair of the senate committee on finance, or a

1 representative designated by the chair;

2 (6) the chair of the house of representatives  
3 committee on public education, or a representative designated by  
4 the chair;

5 (7) the chair of the house of representatives  
6 committee on appropriations, or a representative designated by the  
7 chair; and

8 (8) a member of the State Board of Education, as  
9 designated by the chair of that board.

10 (c) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2),  
11 and (3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the  
12 house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the  
13 commission includes at least one of each of the following  
14 representatives:

15 (1) an administrator in the public school system;

16 (2) a member of the business community;

17 (3) a member of the civic community;

18 (4) a leader in the public securities industry who  
19 specializes in public school financial transactions; and

20 (5) a leader in research concerning student  
21 demographics in the public school finance system.

22 Sec. 42.603. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
23 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

24 Sec. 42.604. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of  
25 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the  
26 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
27 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

1 Sec. 42.605. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING. (a)

2 Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative support  
3 for the commission.

4 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses  
5 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency  
6 for that purpose.

7 Sec. 42.606. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall  
8 develop recommendations under this subchapter to address:

9 (1) the purpose of the public school finance system  
10 and the relationship between state and local funding in that  
11 system;

12 (2) the appropriate levels of local maintenance and  
13 operations and interest and sinking fund tax effort necessary to  
14 implement a public school finance system that complies with the  
15 requirements under the Texas Constitution; and

16 (3) policy changes to the public school finance system  
17 necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic  
18 diversity in the state.

19 (b) The commission may establish one or more working groups  
20 composed of not more than six members of the commission to study,  
21 discuss, and address specific policy issues and recommendations to  
22 refer to the commission for consideration.

23 Sec. 42.607. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2018, the  
24 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and  
25 the legislature that recommends statutory changes to improve the  
26 public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding  
27 to account for student demographics.

1       Sec. 42.608. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a)  
2 The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its  
3 duties under this subchapter.

4       (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,  
5 Government Code.

6       Sec. 42.609. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF  
7 SUBCHAPTER. (a) The commission is abolished January 1, 2019.

8       (b) This subchapter expires January 1, 2019.

9       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.